

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, 8 January 2013
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Roll Call:

Members present: Bill Brown, Ashley Cranor, Caleb Steiner, Molly O'Donnell, Cynthia Schultz, Gary Charbonneau, Jeff Jewel, David Parkhurst

Regrets: Maggie Sullivan, George Huntington, Claire Cumberland, David Rollo

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Chair Cynthia Schultz called the meeting to order at **6:03** pm.

Public Comment

None

Announcements

Bill announced two campus forums on the natural gas boom at 4pm and 7pm on January 14.

The 2nd Terrible Horrible No Good Very Bad Bike Ride will be January 19 at 10am.

Molly announced a workshop for faith community facility managers to discuss HVAC and lighting. The date is TBD.

Ashley noted that the Solid Waste District has expanded the operation hours for recycling centers to five days a week.

Approval of minutes December 2012 minutes were approved unanimously.

Report from the Chair

Brainstorming for Earth Day 2013: Molly recapped the discussion at the leadership meeting last week. One role BCOS could play is to assemble info on all Earth Week events taking place around the community, and to help advertise these events. This could be done in a similar way to the "12 Days of Earth Day" that Jeff worked on in Cannon Beach.

Ashley will be doing more follow up on the Energy Challenge, including some events at the schools that participated in the effort. Considering doing an Energy Fair similar to what they did last year. Ashley, Jeff, and Molly will all work on this.

Discussion of involvement in Imagine Bloomington Process:

Jacqui gave an update on the process—the vision statement has been drafted and adopted by the Plan Commission. City Council will consider the statement this month and adopt it. Jacqui will share the vision statement so commissioners can review it and identify areas of particular interest.

Plastic bag ban study: A SPEA class has been identified to research the feasibility of a plastic bag ban in the community. We'll explore having the class present to BCOS to determine if the commission can somehow get involved with the project.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator

Jacqui noted that E-bills are now available for City of Bloomington Utilities water bills. She encouraged everyone to share this info with others so more people can sign up.

Committee reports

STAR Report: Moving forward with the Global Reporting Initiative in partnership with IU and Ball State. Need to follow up with Maggie and Claire to see what's happening on the food indicators.

Environmental Commission Planning Committee: No January meeting, so nothing to report.

New business

Presentation on a proposed Green Business Certification program: Cynthia covered the efforts of Prof. Benjamin Schultz to develop a green business certification program. This will also be tied in with the Global Reporting Initiative study being done in conjunction with Ball State.

The group has completed a version of the program on paper. Phase 1 has been piloted with 3 entities: Twisted Limb Paperworks, IU Alumni Association, and Bloomingfoods. Next steps include migrating the developed content to a website, appointing an operations team (desktop or cloud), and appointing an inspection team (perhaps a class under supervision of a semester, a volunteer team associated with a local interest group, BCOS members).

For Phase 1: Developed simplified questionnaire (130 questions) with material in 3 categories (people, planet, profit). If they give a "yes" answer to the first question ("are you committed to sustainability"), they are accorded status for the first year. All other "yes" answers create a baseline measurement; "no" answers generate a recommendation. Measurements of energy and water used and garbage and recyclables generated are all required. Completing the questionnaire automatically generates a sustainability report for the business and an inspection report for the inspectors.

Prof. Schultz is hoping to hand the project off to someone who can implement the program. Suggestions already received including breaking up the program into more digestible chunks—perhaps into low-hanging fruit, allow businesses to focus on specific topic areas at one time. Interested in having BCOS take a role in implementation.

Ashley mentioned the county's interest in creating a local eco-tourism website and to highlight local green businesses. The Chamber and Visit Bloomington were also interested in participating, so may be an opportunity to tie these efforts in together.

Cynthia suggested that the eco-tourism effort could also include workshops (such as container gardening).

Cynthia will bring back additional updates as the program develops; and will work with a student intern and Jeff to identify resources for developing a website.

For the next meeting, Molly agreed to arrange a presentation on the solar grant received by Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.